









ishing it altogether, at any rate for ventilating it, and driving the officers an opportunity of preparing themselves for the next year. They seemed to have thought the increase was thoroughly permanent, and so much had the Government assumed this to be the case that even for inchoate offices the gold increase had been provided. A gentleman who was at present absent in England was to have his increase in this way on his arrival. The Government came down to a salary for him, and a gold increase, too—a practice totally at variance with propriety. If the salary of that gentleman was to be a thousand pounds a year, let it be a thousand pounds. What had a gold increase to do with a salary appointed for the year 1855? But the Government seemed to imply it was necessary for an officer who was to be sent from England to have a salary increased a year, and a gold increase, too. The salary of that gentleman was to be a thousand pounds a year, let it be a thousand pounds.

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He would now allude to the bearing of his proposition on the salaries of the officers who would be affected. He was the other right-handed member to speak on the subject. He served him, moreover, among others, the hon. Postmaster-General, who said the anomalies which would be caused by the motion, if carried, would be monstrous. He would ask the Government whether it would produce a more anomalous state of things than their own course of action. He would show how the proceedings much further that some of their arrangements were indeed anomalous. He would allude to the salaries of the clerks, and take the name of the officers as they stood, and the first of those officers happened to be a friend of his own—perhaps one reason why he should choose him, and he would say, as was said by one of his friends in reference to *Amicus Plato*, our public duties are greater than my friend. His friend Mr. Morewether was one of the instances in which he had paid the anomalies of the Government with regard to the salaries of officers fixed by the general Inspector of Distilleries, for which he received the sum of £550, with the temporary increase of £175, made a total of £725. The same gentleman also received an income of £150 a year, with the temporary increase of £75, for inspecting the Church and School Lands; and he also received £300 a year as Commissioner; and that he receives altogether £1,000 a year.

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The whole affair was a juggling and a money-making little worthy of the Government. He had said as much as to the principles which guided him in making this motion. He had a high opinion of the Civil officers, but he did not consider there were any grounds of a most contradictory character, some asserting that the prices of necessities were in advance of what they were when the increase was first granted—others asserting directly the contrary was the case. He would have been better pleased had these gentlemen, instead of indulging in bare assertion, come forward with some proof in support of their statements. Since the meeting of the Council, when this matter was adjourned, he had trouble to provide himself with the increase in the price of provisions and other necessities. This statement had been furnished him by his family, and with the permission of the House he would read a portion of it. It was divided into fifteen heads as follows:—Butcher, baker, milk, grocer, vegetable, flour, bread, shoes and boots, general clothing, wine and other liquors, crockery and hardware, furniture, books and educational articles, domestic servants, public and private charities, donations and subscriptions. The last of these was certainly a small item, comparatively speaking. He would draw their attention to the first head, to which he had alluded, namely, the butcher. During the year 1852, when that head of the expenditure was set down at £55 19 1d., for the whole of the year 1853, at £55 19 1d., for the whole of the year 1854, £58 17 1d., and for the half-year ending June, 1855, £48 3d. 7d. Now, he would not trouble the House with the expenditure under the other heads; they all showed a similar increase. The statement had been prepared with great care, and the public would be quite repaid for their trouble in perusing it, if they succeeded in showing the House that there could exist any grounds for the proposed increases. He would add, however, from the Colonial Secretary that it was the intention of those honorable members who were recipients of the temporary increase not to vote on the question, for he felt sure, if it were left to the representatives of the people, they would either inquire into the circumstances of such families, or the extent of their public or private benefactions. He had no doubt, while they had anything to give, the officers of the Government were as benevolent in their charitable contributions as any other class of men. Natives should be stop to inquire of the recipients of Government salaries were married men or not—or whether their families were limited or extensive. This was not the question. The

members who helped to the country districts would never believe the expense of maintaining a family in Sydney was so great, if they did, he was sure they would not join in cutting down this temporary increase at this time. At the same time he could not help stating that he did think the time would shortly arrive when a division of these salaries must take place. He was under the impression that there was many difficulty in the employment of Government clerks, who were not required for the proper and efficient discharge of the duties of the various offices. He did not only think a deduction, under existing circumstances, in the number of clerks would have to take place, but that shortly when the state of affairs was changed, and the revenue consolidated, the duties would be simplified, and this would be a remarkable fortune man in having so fine a family. (Great laughter.) Before applying himself to the difference which existed in the prices of the necessities of life—which existed, according to the public journal, between the period of 1853 and 1854, he would like to call your attention to what had fallen from the house, member for the Colonial Secretary. That hon. member had said that the motion now before the House was one unworthy of the honorable member, the member for the Sydney Hamlets. Now he did not think this remark was justified. The hon. member alluded to was not in the House when the motion was carried, and if he had been so particular as to the amount of his deduction he might have done them, as he had on many occasions, both before and since, have shown the shortcomings of the Government in regard to due economy in the public expenditure, and therefore believing the hon. member was actuated on the present occasion by an equally conscientious determination to perform his duty to the country, he could not agree that the motion of the hon. member was unworthy of his attitude.

The hon. member had not given the Colonial Secretary a chance to speak, and yet there was their intention to refer to the House at any time the question was put. (Hear, hear.) He felt annoyed that he should be called upon to speak to the question at all, but such was the case, he could assure the hon. member (Mr. Donaldson) that for his own part, he did not expect any temporary increase for 1855. But the new nomination would be the question. The hon. member for the Sydney Hamlets, who said the anomalies which would be caused by the motion, if carried, would be monstrous. He would ask the Government whether it would produce a more anomalous state of things than their own course of action. He would show how the proceedings much further that some of their arrangements were indeed anomalous. He would allude to the salaries of the officers, and take the name of the officers as they stood, and the first of those officers happened to be a friend of his own—perhaps one reason why he should choose him, and he would say, as was said by one of his friends in reference to *Amicus Plato*, our public duties are greater than my friend. His friend Mr. Morewether was one of the instances in which he had paid the anomalies of the Government with regard to the salaries of officers fixed by the general Inspector of Distilleries, for which he received the sum of £550, with the temporary increase of £175, made a total of £725. The same gentleman also received an income of £150 a year, with the temporary increase of £75, for inspecting the Church and School Lands; and he also received £300 a year as Commissioner; and that he receives altogether £1,000 a year.

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The ATTORNEY-GENERAL said he was pleased to hear from the hon. member for Sydney that, irrespective of the popular feeling or the opinion of his constituents, he was about to adopt the right course, namely, not altogether to oppose the motion, but to oppose it at present. He had given the House reasons, and very good ones, why the increase should be reduced, and the revenue consolidated, the duties would be simplified, and this would be a remarkable fortune man in having so fine a family. (





